

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 STRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 TRSE-00 FRB-03
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R 081212Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3262
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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PASS STR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, IN, US
SUBJECT: TEXTILES: LETTER FROM MINISTER OF COMMERCE
DHARIA TO SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE STRAUSS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AUGUST 5 LETTER FROM DHARIA TO STRAUSS: ORIGINAL WAS SENT THROUGH INDIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON:
2. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. STRAUSS,
3. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER DATED 24TH JULY 1978, REGARDING THE RECENT PROBLEMS IN INDO-US TEXTILE TRADE.
4. THE PERMISSION FOR ENTRY INTO THE USA IN RESPECT OF MILL-MADE APPAREL CATEGORIES EXPORTED FROM INDIA ON OR BEFORE 7TH JULY HAS CERTAINLY BEEN HELPFUL AS IT HAS TEMPORARILY SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF THE GOODS IN TRANSIT. HOWEVER, MUCH OF THE PROBLEMS STILL CONTINUE AS THE TRADE FLOW HAS COMPLETELY

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STOPPED. CONSIDERING THAT THE WRONG CLASSIFICATION OF ABOUT 14 MILLION SQ. YARDS OF THE SENSITIVE TYPES WAS OF A TECHNICAL NATURE AND ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT THE EXPORT PAPERS DID CONTAIN THE DESCRIPTION OF GOODS AS HANDLOOM ITEMS THOUGH INCORRECT STAMP HAD BEEN AFFIXED, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE SORTED OUT RATHER QUICKLY. NOW IT APPEARS THAT THE CONSULTATIONS COULD BE HELD ONLY IN FIRST-

SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. THIS WOULD PUT MANY EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS TO GREAT DIFFICULTY AS ALREADY THEY HAVE ENTERED INTO CONTRACTS FOR WHICH SHIPMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE. WE CONSIDER IT THEREFORE VERY NECESSARY THAT AS AN INTERIM MEASURE MILL-MADE GOODS IN GROUP II ARE ALLOWED ENTRY UP TO THE EXTENT OF ABOUT 14 MILLION SQ. YDS. BEYOND THE ADJUSTED LEVEL OF GROUP II. WE HAVE STIPULATED THAT PENDING FINALIZATION OF THE FIGURES, THE ADDITIONAL ITEMS COULD BE DEBITED TO 1979 LEVEL.

5. WE ALSO FIND THAT IN THE FOUR SENSITIVE TYPES, THE INDICATED LEVELS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REACHED BY ALLOCATION OF QUOTA AGAINST CONTRACTS BETWEEN EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS. IF INDICATED LEVELS OF THESE FOUR TYPES ARE NOT RAISED, THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CONTRACTING BETWEEN EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR. BESIDES CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR OUR MANUFACTURERS, INCLUDING HANDLOOM PRODUCERS, THIS WILL BE A SET-BACK TO FREE FLOW OF TRADE IN THESE POPULAR VARIETIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF U.S. CONSUMERS. WE HAVE SUGGESTED INCREASE IN THE INDICATED LEVELS. PENDING CONSULTATIONS IN SEPTEMBER, WE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY THAT THERE IS SOME INTERIM AD HOC INCREASE IN THESE LEVELS SO THAT TRADE FLOW DOES NOT GET STOPPED.

6. YOUR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING AMALGAMATION OF MILL-MADE AND HANDLOOM ITEMS ARE UNDER OUR CONSIDERATION AND ALL THESE ASPECTS WOULD BE DISCUSSED DURING CONSULTATIONS. IN THE INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EST OF CONTINUITY OF TRADE FLOW, HOWEVER, I AM REQUESTING FOR THE INTERIM STEPS MENTIONED ABOVE.

7. WITH KIND REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY, MOHAN DHARIA. END
QUOTE
GOHEEN

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